

REMARKS

Claims 3-22 and 31 are pending in the application.

Claims 3-22 and 31 stand rejected.

Claims 3, 19, 21, and 31 have been amended. Support for these amendments can be found, at least, within paragraphs [0002]-[0005] of the original Specification.

Examiner Interview

Applicants thank Examiners Michael Pham and Kim Truong for the interview conducted on December 11, 2008, during which possible solutions to further prosecution of the present claims was discussed. Applicants presented information regarding the claimed invention that would clarify distinctions in the claims from U.S. Patent No. 7,366,730, issued to Greenfield ("Greenfield"). Applicants and the Examiners agreed to amendments clarifying that a multidimensional data source comprises three or more dimensions, in order to clarify the differences between the present claims and Greenfield. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments presented to independent claims 3, 19, 21, and 31 are in accord with this agreement.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3, 6-10, 14-22, and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly being unpatentable over Greenfield and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0091681, naming Cras as an inventor ("Cras"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Independent claims 3, 19, 21, and 31, as amended, now contain the following additional limitation:

generating a relational model of a multidimensional data source using one or more of a schema for the multidimensional data source and metadata for the multidimensional data source, wherein the multidimensional data source comprises three or more dimensions.

See, e.g., claim 3. The Advisory Action rejects the previous version of the independent claims on the basis that Greenfield was not distinguished from the claims because a relational database could broadly be understood as a multidimensional database. *See* Advisory Action, p.2. During the Examiner interview, the Examiner agreed that clarifying what is considered a multidimensional data source would distinguish the claims from Greenfield.

The amended limitation provides two clear distinctions from Greenfield: (1) the “generating” limitation that uses a multidimensional data source; and (2) the “using” feature that constructs a multidimensional database query.

The “generating” limitation is further distinguished from Greenfield because the grounds of rejection listed in the previous Office Action are no longer applicable given the distinction between relational and multidimensional databases. The prior grounds of rejection relied on a broad interpretation of a relational database being possibly interpreted as a multidimensional data source. Given the newly added limitations, the two types of databases are now clearly distinct since relational databases by their nature have no more than two dimensions. Therefore, the previous analogies to the cited passages of Greenfield no longer apply.

The “using” limitation of independent claims 3, 19, 21, and 31 reads as follows:

using the relational-to-multidimensional mapping together with
relational/multidimensional equivalency logic to construct a
multidimensional database query based on the received relational
database query.

See, e.g., claim 3. This limitation is also distinguished from Greenfield because the cited passages of Greenfield pertain to producing a SQL query, which is a relational database query. *See* Advisory Action, p.2. By contrast, the present claims construct a multidimensional database query. Given the amended claims, which distinguish a multidimensional data source from a relational data source, the construction of a multidimensional database query is similarly distinguished from a relational database query. Therefore, the cited passages of Greenfield pertaining to the construction of a relational database SQL query are no longer applicable to the present claims.

The Office Action does not cite Cras against either the “generating” or the “using” limitations and therefore Greenfield is left to stand alone with respect to these limitations, but Greenfield is no longer applicable as discussed above. Hall pertains only to relational data sources, which given the newly added limitation distinguishing relational and multidimensional data sources, renders Hall inapplicable to the present claims. Thus, no remaining cited references are applicable to at least the “generating” or “using” limitations.

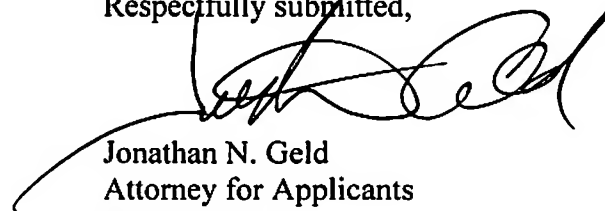
For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that neither Greenfield nor Cras nor Hall, alone or in any combination, provide disclosure of all the limitations of independent claims 3, 19, 21, and 31, and dependent claims 4-18, 20, and 22, and that these claims are in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully request the Examiner’s reconsideration and withdrawal of the final rejections to these claims and an indication of the allowability of same.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application and the claims therein are believed to be in condition for allowance without any further examination and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

If any extensions of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) are required in order for this submission to be considered timely, Applicants hereby petition for such extensions. Applicants also hereby authorize that any fees due for such extensions or any other fee associated with this submission, as specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17, be charged to Deposit Account 502306.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan N. Geld', is written over a horizontal line.

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